THE GOBRECHT JOURNAL

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of the
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VOLUME TWELVE ISSUE #36

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THE 1854-O HUGE O QUARTER - A CLOSER LOOK

by

Harry E. Smith

Probably the most easily recognized variety of the Liberty Seated Quarter series is the 1854-O Huge O Quarter. However, many coin dealers mistakenly attribute the common 1854-O large O as the huge O variety due to the "huge" size of its mintmark. The description and analysis of the huge O variety that follows will hopefully clear up future misunderstandings about this unusual variety.

Obverse - The date is punched high, close to, but not touching the base of the rock. The numerals are 2.47mm high, evenly spaced, and thick. The 1 is repunched to the left and down, and has a small burr on the lower left part of the base. The 5 is closed with the upright nearly touching the ball of the lower loop. The 4 is obviously tilted to the right. The arrows are small and punched high with the upper rear tips nearly touching the base of the rock. The arrows are far from the numerals with the tips close to the denticles. The upper side of the left arrowhead is recut. All the stars appear to have some recutting at some point with stars 6 and 7 totally recut. The obverse figure is recut from Miss Liberty's chin around clockwise to the foot. The stars and head of Liberty are slightly flat. Later die state pieces have a small die crack looping down from the lower rear arrow point of the left arrow to the left base of the 1.

Reverse - The mintmark is 1.75mm wide and 1.65mm high. It is centered between the crotch of the olive branch and arrow feather and is equidistant in the lower field from the crotch and lower lettering. The mintmark is thick and slightly flat on the top, with the left side being slightly thicker than the right, and it is tilted to the right.

The lower right part of the olive branch is polished away as is the upper part of the R in QUAR. The upper serif of the D in DOL is also polished away.

A series of wavy die cracks run to the left from the polished out area of the D in DOL, stop, and reappear again running from the polished out part of the R in QUAR through the upper half of all the letters in QUAR. These cracks continue upward from the QU in QUAR into the field and through the lower three leaves and upper berry of the olive branch. Another crack extends out from the upper berry into the field, stops, and then reappears at the eagle's lower left wing and runs through it to the other side of the wing.

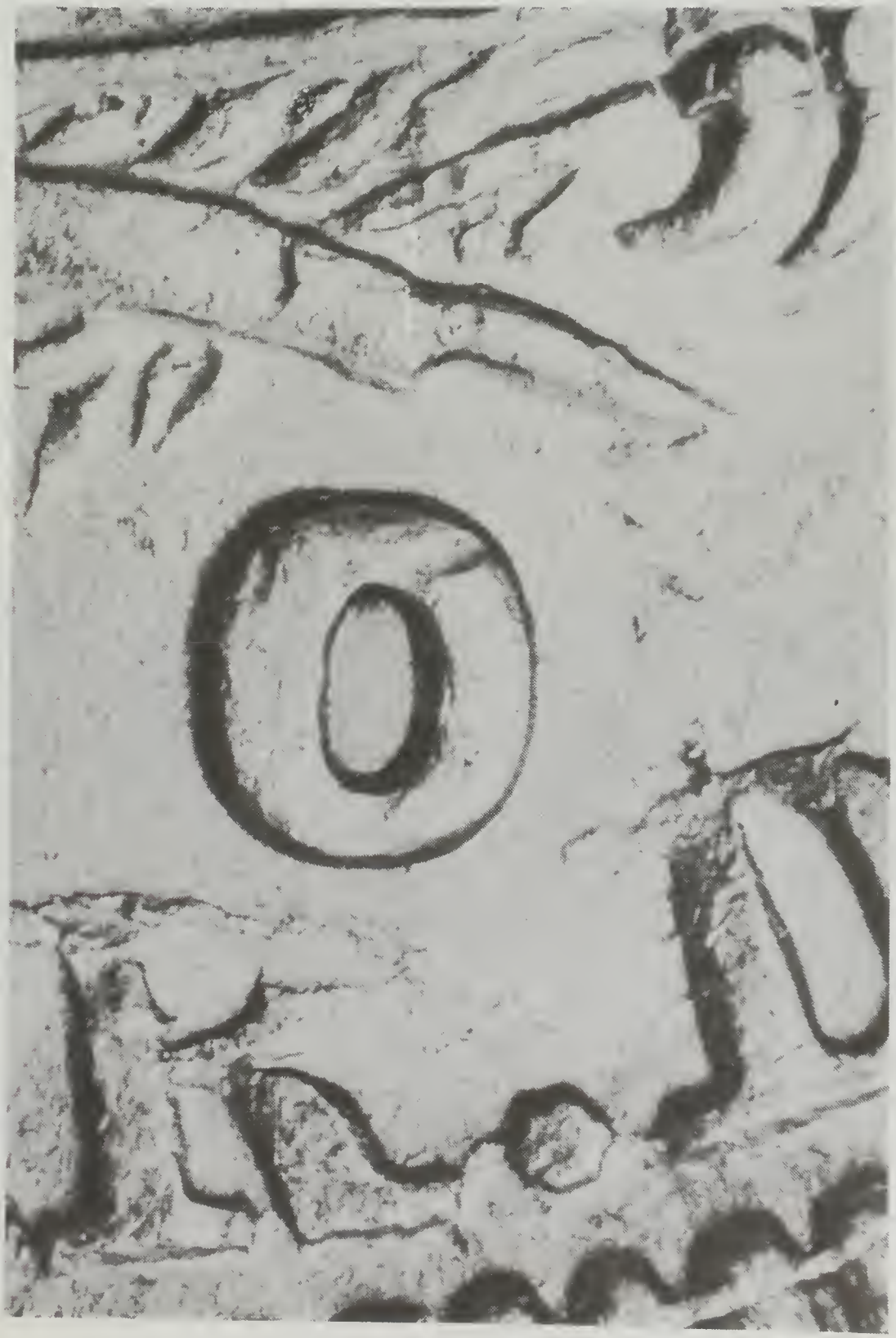
The horizontal lines of the eagle's shield are poorly struck and flat on the lower left side as are the denticles and rim from below the outer leaves of the olive branch to the second serif of the A in QUAR. Later die state pieces have a die crack that snakes up and down through the denticles clockwise from the base of the denticle under the left side of the O in DOL and ending in the denticle just below the lowest outermost leaf of the olive branch. This die crack is only fully evident on XF or better specimens due to the striking weakness in the rim previously mentioned.

Much controversy has been raised over how the huge O mintmark came to be. Some people believe that the huge O was a recutting of a mintmark punched into the die. Others think that it was crudely cut by hand into a Philadelphia die that was mistakenly sent to the New Orleans mint. Careful examination of the O mint reverses from 1840 to 1854 leads me to believe that the latter is true. Most of the New Orleans dates have a large O mintmark that is punched higher than where the huge O is found. For the small O varieties, the mintmarks on the 1840-O, 1841-O, 1842-O and 1843-O pieces were punched too far to the left or too high. Thus, none of the mintmarks used in the series could have been recut into the huge O. Also the non-symmetrical shape of the huge O and the die polishing under it for no apparent reason tends to indicate that the mintmark was not made from a mechanical punch. Other recut mintmarks in the Liberty Seated series do not show any of the distortion found on the huge O variety.

The 1854-O huge O quarter, while quite scarce, is not as rare as the pricing guides would seem to indicate. It can be found somewhat regularly and almost always at a substantial discount. I feel examples of this variety are roughly worth half the prices listed in *Coin Prices,* the only magazine/newspaper to value the 1854-O huge O. This variety is unknown in uncirculated condition and quite rare in grades of XF or better, where I believe a nicely struck piece should command a nice premium.

With the general lack of knowledge about the Liberty Seated series, one can still occasionally find an 1854-O huge O for the price of a common date. This may all change soon but, in the meantime, happy hunting!

Photographs of the 1854-O huge O quarter were taken by Stephen M. Huston, San Francisco, California.



1854-O Huge O Mintmark

VARIETIES OF THE 1840-O QUARTER

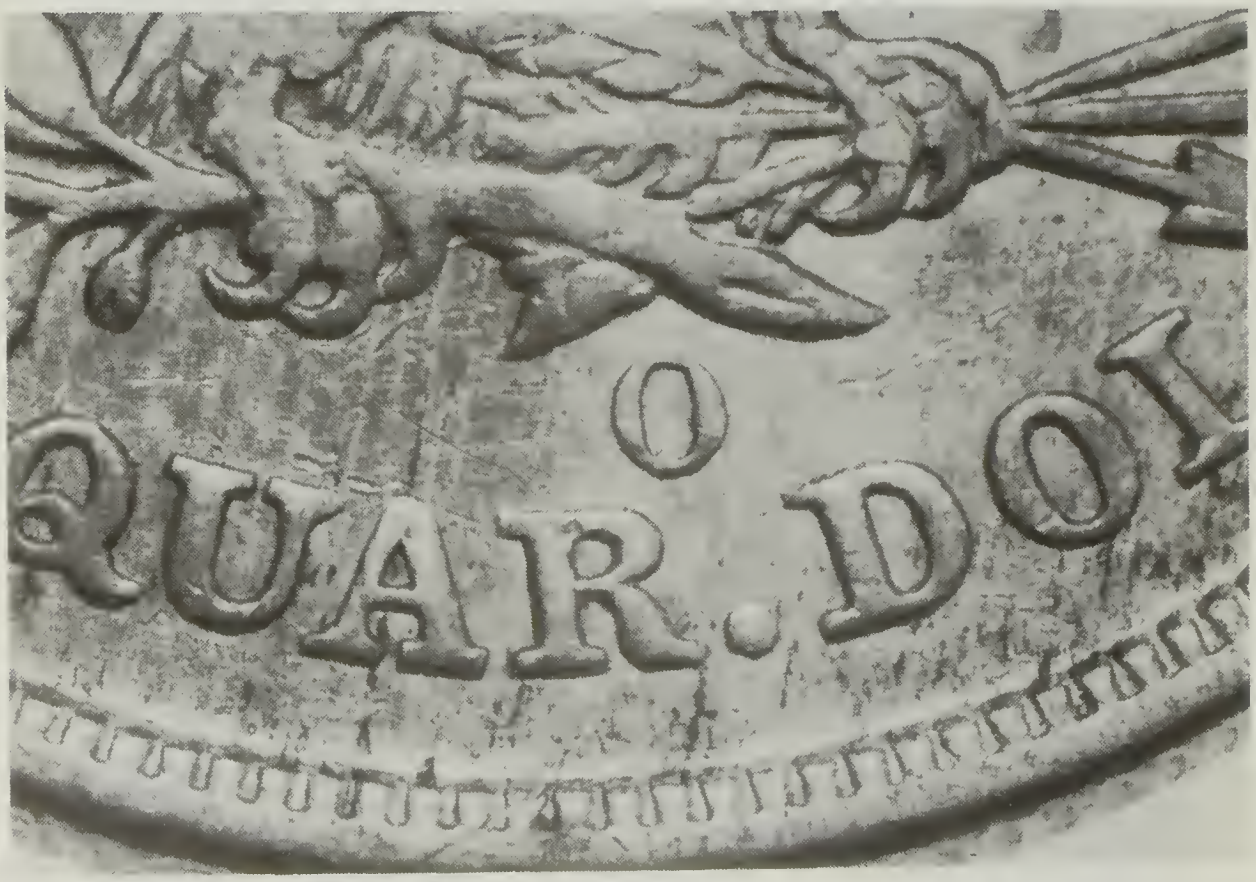
by

Walt Bodine

There doesn't seem to have been much interest in the 1840-O quarter and its varieties in recent years. With this article I will delve into the basic varieties of this date but will not discuss sub-varieties, those die differences having to do with die breaking or doubling. Published mint records reveal the following:

	Mintage		Personal Experience
Category	Quantity	% of Total	% of Total
1. 1840-O No Drapery	382,200	89.9	70
2. 1840-O With Drapery	43,000	10.1	30
Total	425,200	100.0	100

If my experience is typical, then either the mintage figures are incorrect or a greater proportion of the no drapery pieces were melted or lost. However, with a mintage of only 43,000 pieces one would naturally expect that the 1840-O with drapery quarter would be in greater demand than it is. One can only speculate that it simply has not yet gained much popularity.



1. 1840-O No Drapery, Large O, Centered Under Crotch

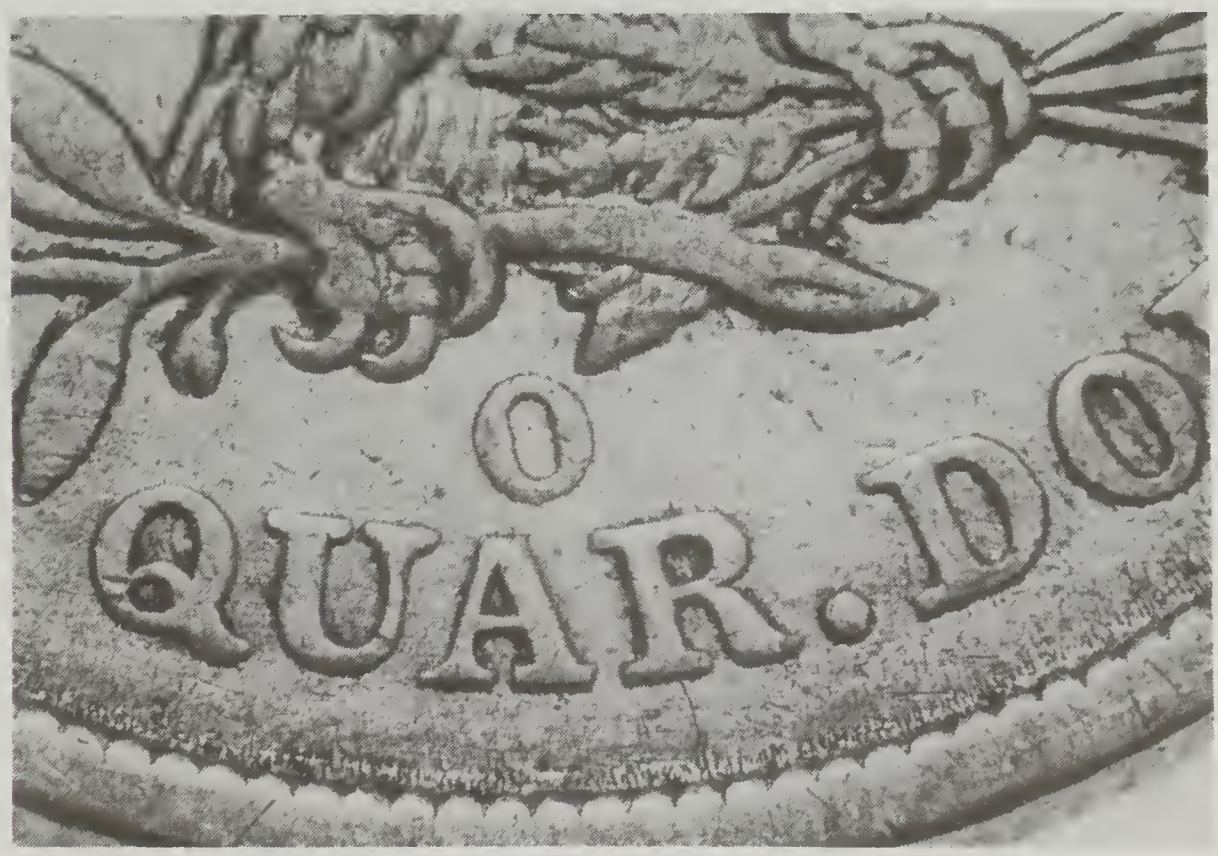
To my knowledge the 1840-O quarter comes in five basic varieties as follows:

	Estimated % of Category	Estimated % of Total
1840-O No Drapery		
1. Large O, centered under crotch	30	21
2. Large O, to the left of R	70	49
1840-O With Drapery		
3. Small o, over right edge of R	49	14.7
4. Small o, centered over R	49	14.7
5. Large O, centered under crotch	2	0.6

Based upon the above table there is little question that the 1840-O with drapery quarter with the large mintmark is by far the scarcest variety to locate. I recently heard of one collector who purchased almost 90 of the 1840-O with drapery quarters over many years and he was able to come up with only three pieces that had the Large O mintmark.

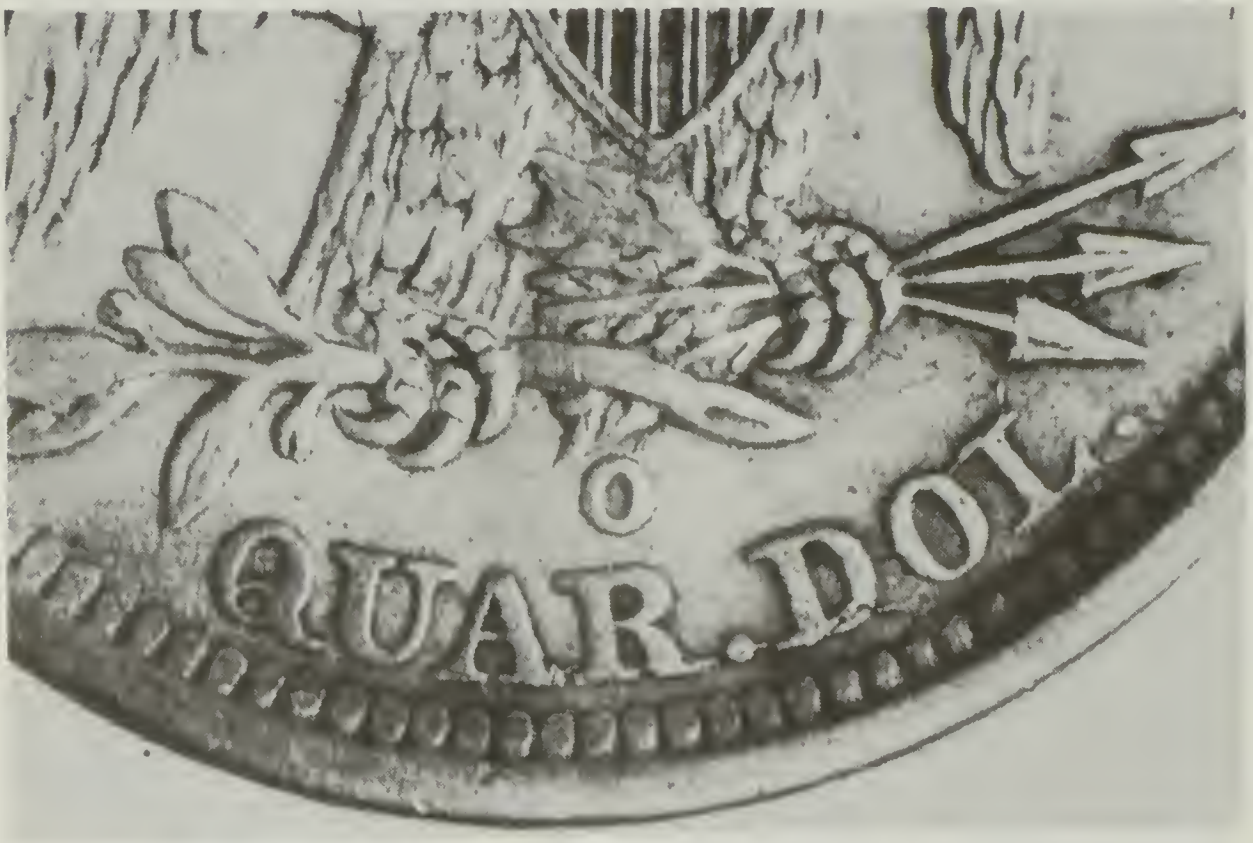
Take a look at your 1840-O quarters and check to see how many of the with drapery variety have the Large O mintmark. I would enjoy hearing about your findings and would welcome any other comments that you might have about this article. The 1840-O with drapery quarter with the Large O mintmark would seem to be a rarity in its own right.

The pictures of the 1840-O quarters were taken by Don Slouffman at Paramount Rare Coin Company in Englewood, Ohio.



2. 1840-O No Drapery, Large O, To the Left of R

3. 1840-O With Drapery, Small o, Over Right Edge of R



4. 1840-O With Drapery, Small o, Centered Over R

5. 1840-O With Drapery, Large O, Centered Under Crotch

QUARTERS

1857	AU, lustrous	$ 75
1861	MS-60, original toning	195
1872	Proof-63, Heritage flip	435
1877-CC	F-VF	22
1877-S	AU-55	110

HALF DOLLARS

1841-O	Fine	$ 29
1843	AU-50	119
1849	VF	39
1855-O	AU-50	145
1857	XF-40	45
1859-S	Good	13
1859-S	VG	17
1861	AU-50	95
1864-S	VF	38
1869	XF-45	65
1869	AU-50	115
1870-S	VF	37
1875-S	VF	32
1880	Proof-60/63	625
1881	XF-45	345

DOLLARS

1840	VF-30	$225
1844	AU-50	600
1844	AU-58, original gold toning	950
1845	XF-40	385
1845	XF-45	445
1846	XF-45	245
1846	MS-60	685
1846-O	AU-55	775
1847	XF-40	220
1848	VF-30	345
1848	XF-40	475
1848	MS-60, toned, ex-Bowers & Merena auction	1450
1849	XF-40	315
1850	XF-45, very lightly polished, small rim bump	650
1850-O	XF-45	725
1865	AU-55	675
1870-CC	VF-30	395
1870-CC	XF-45	615
1873	Proof 60	695

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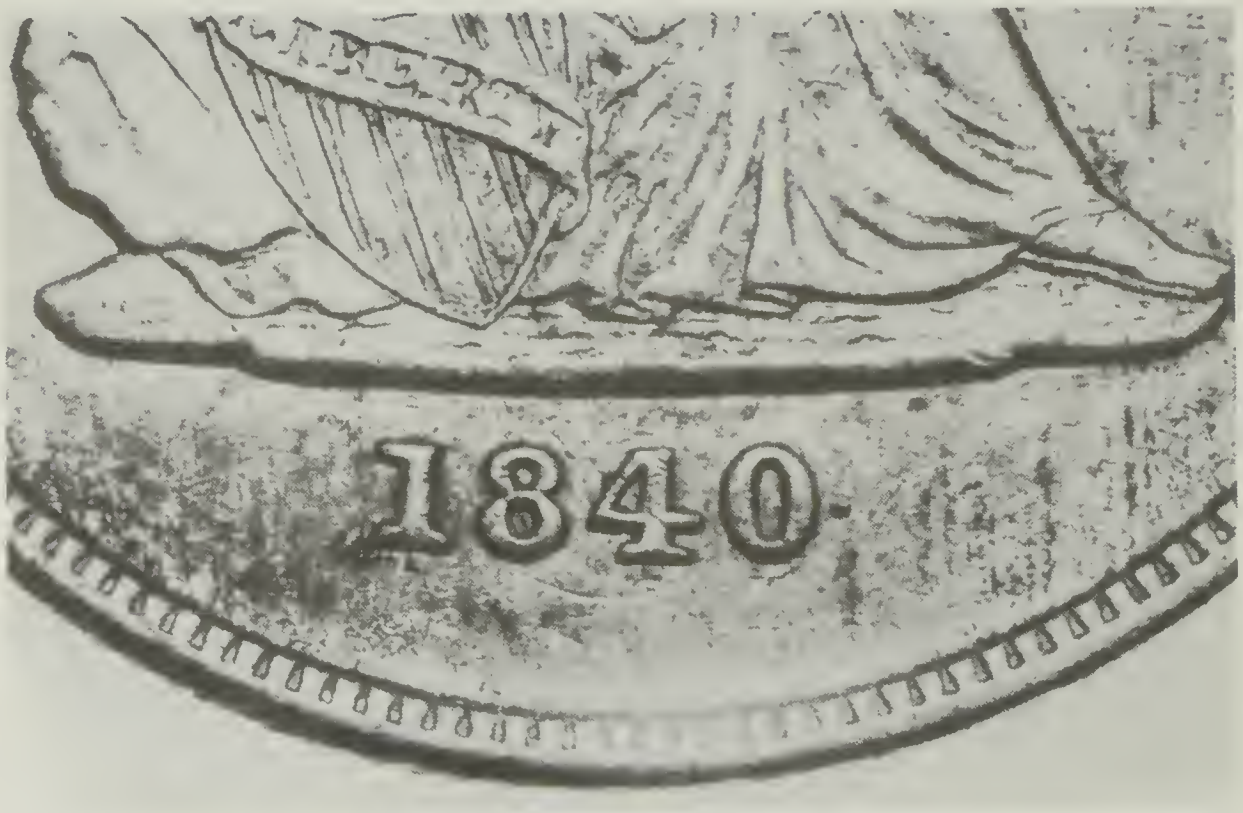
THE RARE 1840-O WITH DRAPERY QUARTER WITH THE LARGE O MINTMARK

by
John W. McCloskey

One of the most interesting varieties in the Seated quarter series has to be the 1840-O quarter With Drapery with the Large O mintmark. This variety is rare and it possesses a number of interesting die characteristics that make it a worthy piece for numismatic study. This rarity also raises some interesting questions that can be resolved only through numismatic research on these unusual pieces. The article in this issue on the five varieties of the 1840-O quarter by Walt Bodine prompted me to put my experience with this variety into print.

The first quarter dollars struck at the New Orleans branch mint came off the presses in 1840. These pieces were struck from a no drapery obverse and they had very narrow denticles around the rims on both the obverse and the reverse. As a result there was an unusually wide gap between the lettering UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and QUAR. DOL. and the denticles on the reverse of these no drapery specimens. The reverse of the no drapery specimens also had a Large O mintmark that measured 1.1 mm tall with a large oval opening within the O.



1840-O No Drapery Quarter with Narrow Denticles

Some time during the production of quarters at the New Orleans mint in 1840 it was decided to change over to the new obverse design that included drapery hanging from the elbow of Miss Liberty's right arm. At the time of this change in design the denticles were extended into the obverse field over three times the distance they had reached on the previous obverses. A similar change was made in the denticles on the reverse. The denticles now extended in much closer to the lettering on the reverse and provided a much stronger border to encase the reverse design. These new reverses with the wider denticles also had smaller mintmarks that measured no more than 0.9 mm tall and they were placed up near the feather and away from the lettering.

At some point during this period the 1840-O With Drapery Large O quarter was struck from a transitional set of dies whose origin still remains a mystery. The obverse of this rare variety seems to be normal, having the new with drapery design and the new wide denticles. The reverse however is far from typical of the dies used during this period and leaves many questions to be resolved. The mintmark on the reverse has the style of the narrow reeding reverses with the large O placed in the center of the field between the feather and the stem and the lettering below. But this reverse has the wide denticles and in fact has a double row of denticles around most of the edge on the reverse. The inner denticles are weak but clearly evident around the edge of the field and they extend well beyond the outer row of denticles in many places. The large O mintmark and the double row of denticles has always made me wonder if this reverse started out as a narrow denticle reverse that was modified with some tool to extend the denticles into the field. After all, the large O mintmark of this style does not appear on any of the other wide denticle reverses for this year or in the following two years when only a small o mintmark was being used in New Orleans.

1840-O With Drapery Quarter with Wide Denticles

The reverse die used to strike this variety may have been damaged when it was being modified with the addition of the wide denticles. All of the pieces that I have seen of this variety have shown a weakness through the feathers below the shield and in the feathers through the upper part of the right wing. It is possible that the die was damaged so that the planchet did not receive a uniform strike from the reverse die during the striking process.

The 1840-O With Drapery quarter with the Large O mintmark is a rare and unusual variety. During a period of ten years I have seen perhaps six examples of the variety, most in average circulated grades and I have never encountered an uncirculated specimen. I believe that the variety has potential as a prized rarity in the quarter series and feel that this variety will be studied extensively by numismatists in the years ahead. There is nothing so interesting as a numismatic mystery to the devoted collector! And this variety sure has a lot to offer the scholar working to understand the production procedures used to strike our beautiful Seated coinage of the 19th century.

The pictures of the 1840-O quarters were taken by Don Slouffman at Paramount Rare Coin Company in Englewood, Ohio.

John T. Kroon
Seated Dollar Specialist

Let me fill your want list. If you are looking for a specific date, and have been unable to locate it, you should contact me.

I shall be at the ANA convention in Milwaukee (including PNG day) and will attempt to locate the Seated Dollars **at your price.**

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BETTER DATES #8

I now need fewer than 30 dates to complete my Seated quarter set. I especially need the dates in the early 1850's, the S mints in the early 1870's and the issues in the 1880's in Fine. Following are many new coins I have to sell or trade towards finishing my set. They are priced to go. Hope to hear from you soon!

HALF DIMES

1840-O	With Drapery, Good, original	$ 22
1842-O	Good+, original	22
1844-O	Good+, rim damage	14
1846	G-VG, cleaned, rare	125
1848	Medium Date, VG-F, original	5
1853-O	NA, Fine, orig., full Liberty	250
1865-S	Abt. XF, old cleaning	60
1866	VF, many scratches & digs, clear date & mintmark area	90

DIMES

1840	WD, AG, reverse scratch	$ 5
1857	XF, upper wreath weak	22
1862-S	AG, just wear	5
1863-S	F-VF, several obv. marks	12
1865-S	F-VF, dark fields	15
1873-S	Arrows, F-VF	22

QUARTERS

1842-O	Lg. Dt. VG, rev. rim tick	$ 8
1845	VG	7
1849	VG	12
1849-O	AG-G, all detail, no rims	300
1851-O	F, obv. scrape, slightly bent	70
1853	A&R, VF-XF, sharp original	25
1857-S	VF, solder removed from obv. center & date	9
1858-S	AG-G	14
1858-S	VG, a few rim cuts	17
1863	AG-G, just wear	9
1871-S	XF, cleaned, obv. marks	425

QUARTERS Continued

1876-S	VG, reverse spots	$ 5
1876-CC	VG, fine reeding	7
1879	VG, original	95
1888-S	F/VG	9
1891-O	Choice XF, dipped	450

HALVES

1840	VG, rev. of 1838, original	$ 90
1852-O	VG, original	52
1855	Arr. AG+/G, original	9
1856-O	56/56, VG-F, cleaned	18
1856-S	VG, porous obverse	20
1856-S	Ch. XF, cleaned, circ. marks	170
1858-S	VG-F, original	17
1860	VF, old cleaning	55
1860-S	Good	14
1861-O	VF, porous, dark	9
1865	AG, just wear	9
1873	NA, closed 3, G/AG+	6
1873	NA, closed 3, G, old obv. scr.	8
1873-CC	Arr. AG, just wear	30
1877-CC	AG, just wear	5
1878-CC	AG, scratches in obv. field	85
1879	XF, marks in obv. field	330
1883	G-VG, cld., old obv. hairlines	135
1885	VF, orig., two rev. digs, several rim cuts	135
1890	G-VG, two old obv. rim bumps	130

DOLLARS

1848	Abt. XF, orig. obv., toning wiped down some	$295

I need the following coins in quantity. Write or ship for generous offer. 25¢: 1840-O WD Lg. O, 1843-O Lg. O, 1871, 1872, 1873 NA Cl. 3, 1886. 50¢: 1850, 1851, 1852. Other better dates needed also.

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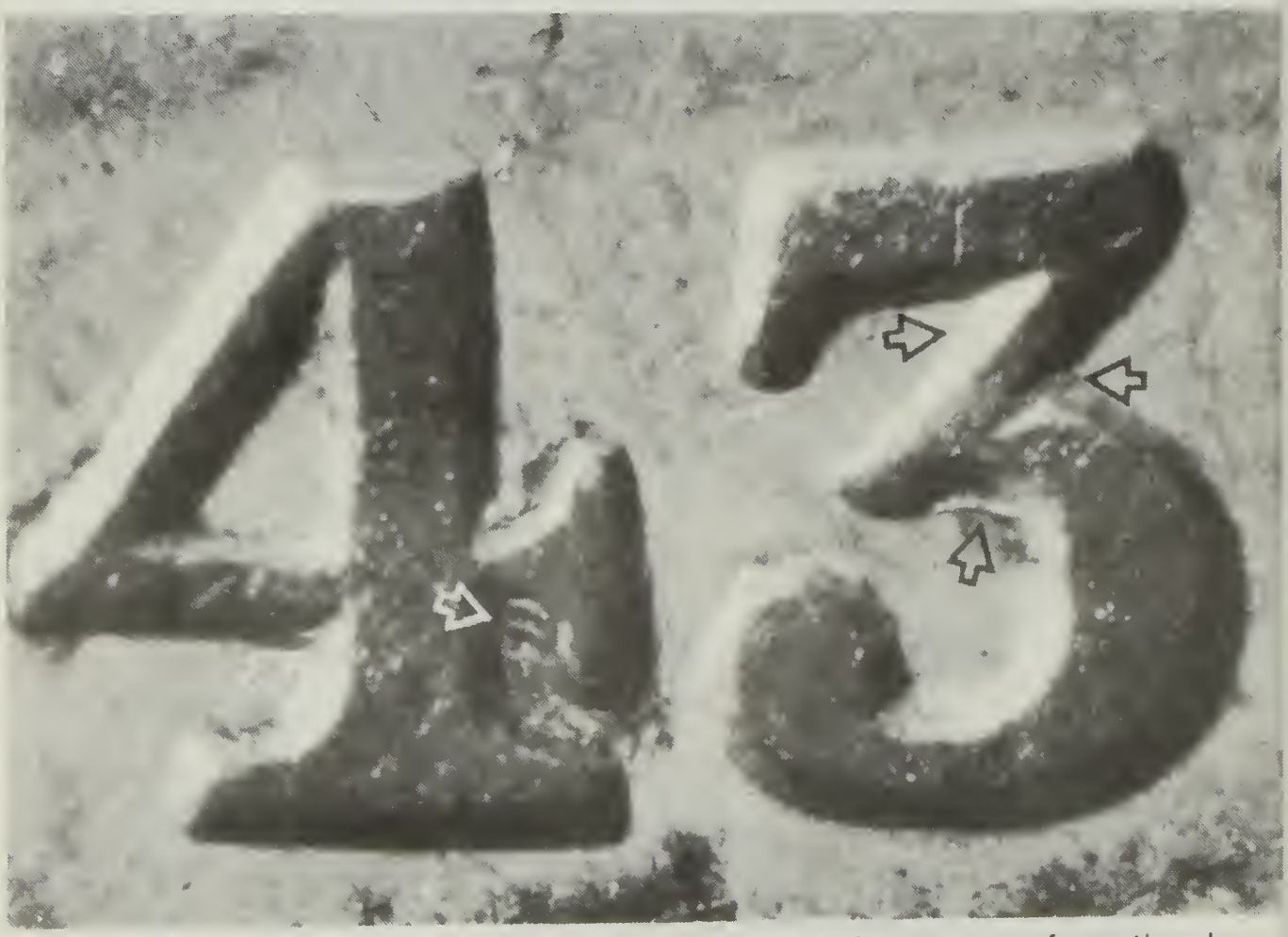
THE 1843/43/43 HALF DOLLAR

by

William Bugert

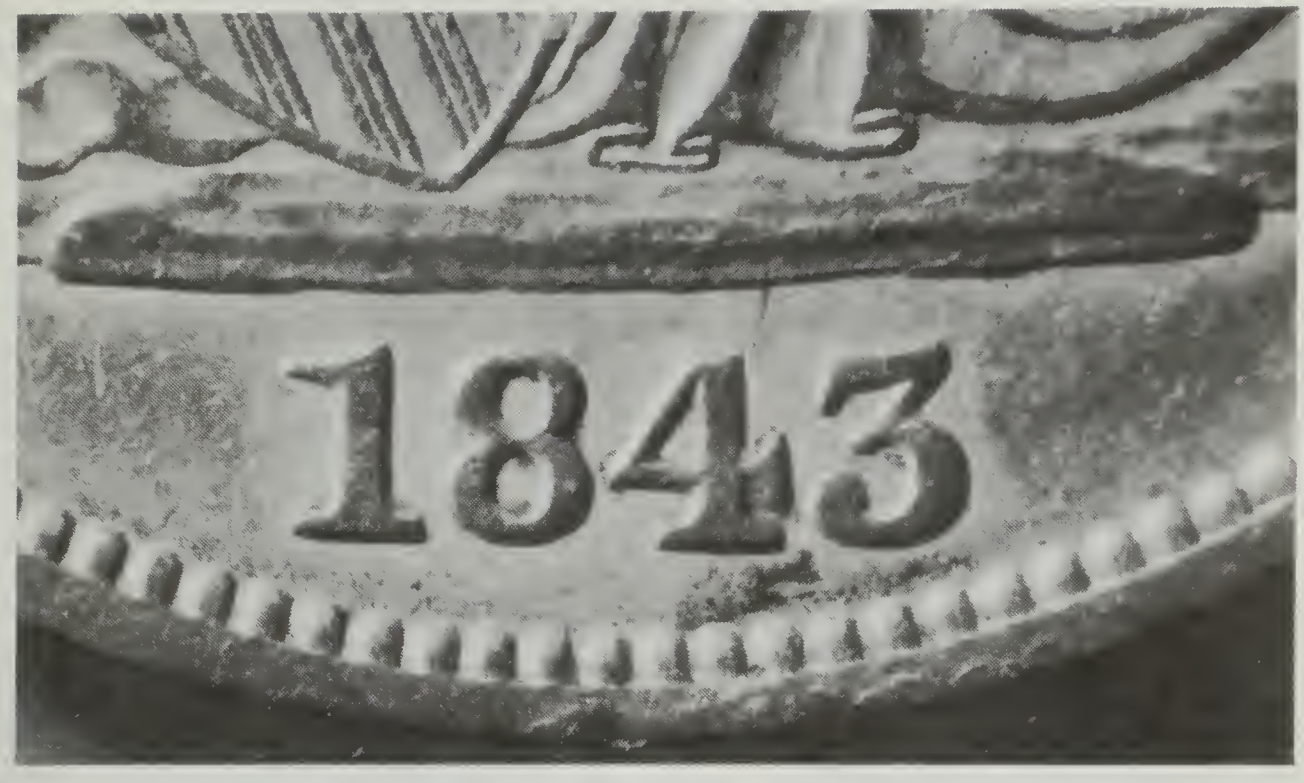
In Issue #35 of the Journal I mentioned that I had seen an 1843/43/43 half dollar. I recently discovered this variety in a coin shop in one of Philadelphia's suburbs near where the coin was minted some 143 years earlier. This variety is not listed by either Beistle or Taxey and can be readily identified by the following diagnostics on the obverse and the reverse.

Obverse. The date is centered between the rock and the denticles although it slants slightly down to the right. The tip of the shield points to the left side of the number 8. The 43 is triple punched, the 4 being recut up; the final cutting of the 3 being between the first and second punches. The 1 and 8 show no signs of being recut.



Reverse. The reverse is bisected by a die crack that runs from the denticles through the H in HALF, through the olive leaves, up through the eagle's left wing and then to the denticles between ST in STATES. All verticle stripes in the shield extend up into the horizontal stripes. There are extensive die polish lines within the reverse shield. There is a small tine off the eagle's leg under the left wing.

Pictures are displayed to help club members identify this variety. I have seen only this one specimen and would appreciate hearing from readers who own others.



Date on 1843/43/43 Half Dollar

Bisecting crack on reverse of 1843/43/43 Half Dollar

Hunting for Half Dimes?

So am I! I am a private collector trying to assemble a VF or better set of half dimes. Perhaps you know where I could find a few of the dates I still need in high grade: 1838-O, 1840-O, 1846, 1850-O, 1852-O and 1865. Meanwhile, I am selling some of my duplicate half dimes to help finance my set. All coins are original and problem free unless otherwise noted.

HALF DIMES

1837	Sm. Date, G-4, slight bend	$11
1840	No Drapery, VF-30, cleaned & toning, attractive	24
1840	With Drapery, G-6	18
1841	G-5	4
1841	VG-10, a few old marks	5
1841-0	G-5, old cleaning, gray retoning	8
1842-0	G-4	22
1842-0	VG-10+, old scratches in obv. field	27
1844	F-12, obv. & rev. digs	5
1844-0	G-5, obv. slightly discolored from old cleaning, small o	40
1845	VF-25, a few circulation marks	15
1847	VF-30, light scratches & digs	13
1848-0	G-4, weak rev. center, a few marks, cleaned & toning	8
1849	G-6	4
1849	VF-35	19
1849-0	VG-8, slightly rough	25
1851-0	VG-10, lite porosity	6
1853-0	Arrows, VG-8, heavily clashed rev.	5
1854	F-15, heavily clashed dies	8
1854-0	G-5, heavily clashed dies	5
1855-0	VF-20, small dig at rev. denticles	35
1856-0	F-15, two small obverse marks	10

HALF DIMES Continued

1857	VG-10	$ 5
1857-0	VF-30	23
1857-0	XF-40, scr. in obv. shield	27
1858	VG-10, old staple scratch in obverse field	4
1858-0	VG-10, old hairline scrat.	6
1859	VF-20, cleaned & toning, lite obverse scratch	19
1859-0	VG-8, deeply retoned, obv. & rev. marks	7
1860	VF-35, lite scratch in reverse field	18
1860-0	VF-30, russet toned obv. deep strike at shield	19
1861	VF-30, mahogany toning	12
1862	VG-8, cleaned	4
1863	VG10/F15	150
1863-S	G-5, slight bend	7
1864	VG-8, a few circ. marks	250
1864-S	G6/F12, lite scratches	23
1866-S	VG10/VF20, clashed dies	21
1867-S	VF-30, cleaned, retoned, several digs	14
1868	VF-25, cleaned, 20 reeds lost to filing of edge	60
1868-S	F-15, rev. die breaks	10
1869-S	VG-10, small scratches in obverse field	5
1871	VF-25, cleaned & retoning	12
1872	VG-8	4
1873-S	F-15, slight bend, marks	4

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A NEW VARIETY FOR THE 1891-O DIME

by

Bill Fivaz

One of the dates that I always try to check closely in the Liberty Seated Dime series is the 1891-O. This is due primarily to the many important die varieties for this date, especially those with defects in the mintmark area.

The coin illustrated here was found at a recent local show and shows a new variety for the date, confirmed by John McCloskey. The obverse has a repunched 9 with the doubling visible on the inside of the lower loop. John illustrated a similar obverse die on an 1891 Philadelphia coin in Issue #10 of the *Gobrecht Journal,* this picture also appeared on page 178 of the *First Collective Volume.*

The first "1" in the date of my coin might be referred to as a "notched 1", "lazy 1", "swayback 1", or "drunken 1". In any event, it has a distinct notch on the vertical above the lower right serif. I suspect this is a hub defect as I've seen the same effect on other coins of this date. The mark on the top of this digit is circulation damage.

On the reverse, the mintmark is unusal in that it appears to be either an 0/0 or possibly even an 0/0/0. There are two protrusions of metal on the right inside of the mintmark and a smaller one on the inside left. What may possibly be a third protrusion on the lower right inside may be the result of bump damage. The coin grades only F/VF, so it's difficult to say for certain on this one. There is also a diagnostic die break from the left outside of the "o" mintmark that runs to the left, under the ribbon end and up to the first large leaf.

1891-O Dime with a Repunched 9

If anyone has a higher grade specimen of this particular variety, I'd be very interested to hear about it and I would like to have the opportunity to examine it. You may contact me at: P.O. Box 888660, Dunwoody, GA 30338.

Mintmark on 1891-O Dime

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HALF DIMES

1838-O	V-2, VG, very rare	$100
1843	Ch. Unc., cracked rev., ex-Levine	185
1846	Choice G/VG	140
1849/8	Choice Unc., ex-Levine	225
1853	Arrows, Choice AU	65
1853-O	Arr. Ch. Unc., ex-Levine	375
1858	Doubled Date, Choice XF	265
1858	Doubled Date, Ch. Unc. ex-Levine	850
1858	1858/Inverted Date, XF	165
1859-O	PL Choice BU	235
1868	VF	85
1868	XF	145
1869	Gem Unc. Obv. flaw	285
1869	Choice Proof	475
1871-S	XF	55
1873	Proof, nice	365

DIMES

1858-S	Sharp XF, nice	$285
1864-S	Fine	27
1865-S	VG/Fine	18
1870-S	VG/Fine	130
1876-CC	Doubled Die Obv. AU	175
1891-S	Lg. S over sm. s, VF	65

TWENTY CENTS

1875	Fine, old cleaning	$ 65
1875-S	Fine	38
1875-S	Choice AU	285
1875-S	BU, cleaned	325
1875-CC	VG	45
1876	VF/XF, cleaned	160

QUARTERS

1839	Reverse of 1838, Sharp VF	$ 75
1842-O	Small Date, Choice VG	400
1853	A&R, Ch. BU, rev. ticks	475
1853/54	VF, ticks	75
1857	Choice XF/AU	50
1858-O	Slider BU, rev. scratch	105
1866-S	VG	170
1877-S	PL AU+, rev. flaw	80
1891-O	VG/AG++	75

HALVES

1840	SL, Slider BU, two ticks	$185
1840	ML, Reverse of 1838, Good	75
1840	ML, Reverse of 1838, VG	125
1840	ML, Reverse of 1838, XF/AU	475
1845	Good	25
1845	VG	37
1846-O	Tall Date, VF, cleaned	210
1848	Fine	50
1848	VF/XF	110
1848-O	VF	40
1850	VF, cleaned, two scratches	185
1855	Choice XF	115
1855-O	AU	165
1856-O	VF/XF	39
1857-S	G/VG	37
1858	Extra 8 in rock, Fine	45
1858-S	Slider BU	375
1860-O	AU, cleaned	70
1861	Sharp XF	53
1866-S	No Motto, Sharp XF/AU	385
1867	Choice AU	275
1869-S	VF/XF	39
1870-CC	VG/F	900
1871	Choice AU	115
1871-S	XF/AU, dark	65
1871-CC	G/VG	90
1872-CC	VG/F	75
1872-CC	VF, litely porous	95
1873-CC	No Arrows, F/VF	235
1873-CC	Arrows, Good	52
1873-CC	Arrows, VF/XF	315
1873-CC	Arrows, XF/AU	500
1874-CC	AG+	95
1874-CC	Fine, weak E	365
1877-S	No Drapery, XF/AU, dark	80
1878	VF	55
1888	Choice XF/AU	400
1889	XF/AU, old cleaning	345
1890	Choice Fine	210

DOLLARS

1846-O	PL AU, flaw in right field	$475

TRADE DOLLARS

1875	VF/XF	$375
1875-S	S/CC, Choice AU+	750

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THE 1874-S DIME

by

John W. McCloskey

Many of the dates in the Liberty Seated dime series are yet to be seriously studied by collectors and therefore only limited information is available on existing varieties and rarity of particular varieties for a given date. A thorough study of a given date will require the examination of multiple specimens of this date. In many cases the limited number of pieces available for a date restricts the potential for much of this research. But if we all work together in reporting our observations on the series it is possible to piece together information that will help us all better understand the facts relating to our beautiful Liberty Seated coinage of the 19th century.

The date I would like to study in this article is the 1874-S dime. Arrows appear at the date on all 1874 dimes and the 1874-S dime is only one of two dates from the San Francisco mint that were struck With Arrows. Mintage of this date is reported to be 240,000 but only one variety is listed in the Ahwash Encyclopedia. I have known about a second variety for some time and would like to provide sufficient information to the collector so that he can identify this unlisted variety. Only through presentation of material of this type can we hope to catalogue the varieties that exist in the series.

The 1874-S A-1 dime listed by Ahwash has a Micro s mintmark that is centered under the bow between the two ribbon ends. The mintmark measures 0.6mm tall and is a solid blob, with only the outline showing. On the obverse the first S in STATES is broken at the top and the O in OF is also broken at the top.

Micro s Mintmark on 1874-S A-1 Dime

The new variety for this year has a Small Thin s mintmark that is identical to the mintmark on the 1873-S A-1 variety listed by Ahwash. The mintmark measures 0.7mm tall and is centered in the space between the two ribbon ends. The mintmark is thin with wide openings and almost always weak, even on high grade pieces. This variety will be called 1874-S A-2 for further reference.

The obverse of the new A-2 variety has a broken first S in STATES but the O in OF is not broken. The date is positioned very close to the A-1 variety but the top of the left arrow is doubled on the A-2 variety. There appear to be some rough areas in the shield area on the obverse of the A-2 variety but these marks do not detract from the overall quality of the coins struck from these dies.

The 1874-S A-2 variety appears to have the same reverse as that used to strike the 1873-S A-1 specimens. But at this stage the reverse is badly cracked and these defects can help identify the coins struck from the reverse die. The 1874-S A-2 dime has a die crack that runs from the rim at 9 o'clock into the wreath and up along the leaves to the rim again at 10 o'clock. Another crack runs from the rim to the wreath 11 o'clock. Another crack runs from the rim at 1 o'clock to the ear of corn. A final crack runs from the rim at 5 o'clock and up along the outside of the leaves in the wreath.

Information on the 1874-S dime is still very limited. No one really knows which of the two varieties is more difficult to obtain or whether there are other varietes yet to be discovered. It is hoped that future studies of this date will cast some light on the unanswered questions about this interesting and overlooked date.

The pictures of the 1874-S dimes were taken by Don Slouffman at Paramount Rare Coin Company in Englewood, Ohio.

Small Thin s Mintmark on 1874-S A-2 Dime

THE 1854-O DOUBLE & TRIPLE OBVERSE HALF DOLLAR
— OR —
HAS THE DIE LOST ITS "LICK"

by

David H. Cohen

In the early 1960's, I met a man named Harry Young. Although time had bent him over, Harry had a quiet strength about him. He was not the least concerned about appearances — he was just Harry. He spoke very quietly, frequently pausing between sentences, and usually lightly smacking his lips together when starting a sentence. There was a simple honesty about him and you had to like him.

One day Harry invited me to visit him at his house just across the river outside of town. Upon entering his home, my eye caught sight of a cat-o'-nine-tails lying on a desk. I asked him if I could see it and in the same breath asked him where he got it. Harry said it had been used in a South Carolina chain gang in the 1880's. The cat-o'-nine-tails was about two and a half feet long. The handle was about a foot long, made of leather and round in shape. The other eighteen inches of the cat-o'-nine-tails was made of nine individual, square strips of leather. Harry showed me the edges of the leather strips which were now all rounded and proclaimed that the whip had lost its "lick" from beating on prisoners. Somehow, the visualization of a whip losing its cutting edge, its "lick", as it cut into the flesh of prisoners always stuck with me.

Uncirculated 1854-O Half Dollar from the Princeton Collection

Thus, when I became interested in coins and how they were made, the expression "losing its lick" seemed very appropriate in describing the process by which the dies lost their cutting edges. Anyone who has looked at New Orleans coins will come to the conclusion very quickly that at the New Orleans mint the dies were overused as a general rule; thus, the dies "lost their lick" and continued to be used. This can be seen in the New Orleans coins from the 1840's through to the 1880's.

In the last issue of the *Gobrecht Journal* an article was written on the triple date 1854-O half dollar. Double and triple obverses have been described for the 1854-O date.

I have been fortunate enough to see the uncirculated 1854-O half dollar contained in the Princeton Collection. I blew up the date on this particular half dollar and found that there is a complete halo around the inside and outside of the numerals of the date. There is also a line around the entire circumference of the coin above the denticles, looking as if the denticles had been pasted onto the coin, and that excess paste had even run into the field.

I have seen a number of other examples of the 1854-O half dollar including the two at the A.N.S. In all of the coins I have seen to date, the position of the date and arrows in the field has always been the same. To wit, an immaginary line drawn vertically along the left edge of the bottom left serif of the 1 will strike the denticle below on its lower edge. Also, an immaginary line horizontally drawn under the top serif of the 1 will strike the left arrow under the shaft of the arrow. The denticle below the 8, if extended up, almost goes through the center of the 8.

In my opinion there is only one obverse die for the 1854-O half dollar. There are, however, many die states. Beistle may have listed 13 obverses for this date in his book on half dollar die varieties, but I have seen only one.

Either only one obverse die was sent to New Orleans or the mint chose to use only one die for half dollars in 1854. However, as the die was used over and over, the recesses lost their cutting edges or "lick". In an attempt to prolong the life of the die and to put some lost detail back into the die, someone tried to recut the recesses of the die. A sharp instrument was taken and used to scrape small amounts of metal along the perimeters of the recesses — the date and stars principally. This process was repeated more than once. After each re-engraving, and on numerous other occasions, the field of the die was repolished. It is my opinion that this repeated repolishing caused the line above the denticles around the circumference of the coin.

Thus, I submit that when one sees a complete halo around both the inside and outside of a date, this is a re-engraving process and not a multiple strike of a punch with slight movement between strikes. Re-engraving arises usually when the die has lost its "lick".

Comments would be graciously appreciated.

David H. Cohen
3321 Vestal Parkway East
Vestal, NY 13850

NEW DIE STATE FOR THE 1840-O HALF DIME WITH DRAPERY

by

Bill Fivaz

As most Liberty Seated half dime collectors know, the 1840-O date With Drapery is quite a rare coin in its own right, with only a few having been minted. According to Breen's comments on this V-5 variety in his Supplement in the Valentine reprint, only one single pair of dies with drapery was shipped to New Orleans on December 2, 1840. There is no information on how many of this variety were actually minted.

It was my good fortune recently to purchase an About Fine specimen of this variety, and upon close examination I noticed a very heavy die crack bisecting the obverse. It starts from a point in the denticles between the 8th star and the cap at 1 o'clock and proceeds downward, paralleling the staff, then runs through Miss Liberty's right arm. The crack continues downward through the gown and into the right half of the shield, exiting at the shield tip and ending in the denticles to the left of the date at 7 o'clock.

Die Crack on 1840-O Half Dime With Drapery

This coin is evidently a very late die state, as there is no mention of an obverse die crack in Valentine's description. Kam Ahwash, in his "Additional Observations on Varieties" in the same book, mentions only a "die crack from the back of Liberty's head to the bottom of the cap on the pole", and one "from the rim to the lower left bottom of the rock".

I thought club members might enjoy seeing what may be a new die state of a rather rare variety.

Die Crack on 1840-O Half Dime With Drapery

1986 COINAGE OF THE AMERICAS CONFERENCE

The American Numismatic Society will sponsor a two day conference on November 1-2, 1986 on early silver coinage of the United States covering the period from 1794 to 1891. The purpose of the conference is to provide an opportunity for numismatic scholars to present their research on early silver coinage to the numismatic public. The conference will consist of a series of papers that will feature silver coins of the Bust and Seated period. The proceedings of the conference will be published in a hard cover volume following the conference. The two day conference will be held at the American Numismatic Society offices on Broadway at 155th Street in New York City. This conference is being brought to the attention of LSCC members as an opportunity to meet some of the leading scholars on 19th century silver coinage and to discuss with them the results of their research on early silver coins.

HALF DIMES

1838	No Drapery, Ch. AU	$110
1839	No Drapery, AU	110
1840	With Drapery, G	18
1840-O	With Drapery, VF	95
1848	Medium Date, VF	18
1848	Large Date, ChoiceXF	125
1849	9/8, XF/AU	130
1851-O	VF	28
1853-O	With Arrows, VF	21
1864-S	AU	295

DIMES

1837	No Stars, Good	$ 20
1837	No Stars, VF-30	95
1840-O	No Drapery, VF	32
1841-O	Choice AU+	178
1843-O	Nice VF	215
1859-O	VF/F	18
1873	With Arrows, F	15
1873-S	With Arrows, VF	52
1874-S	With Arrows, Choice XF	165

QUARTERS

1838	No Drapery, Ch. AU	$355
1842-O	Large Date, Choice AU	275
1850-O	VF	85
1851	VF	105
1853	Arrows & Rays, VG	12
1857-S	Choice XF	405
1864	Choice VF	142
1865-S	XF	395
1874-S	With Arrows, Fine	35
1878-CC	Fine	48

HALF DOLLARS

1840	Small Letters, AU	$125
1842	Small Date AU	180
1847-O	Choice AU	165
1848-O	Choice AU	125
1849-O	Nice AU	110
1851-O	Choice AU, sharp	250
1854	With Arrows, AU	350
1855-O	With Arrows, VG	22
1855-O	With Arrows, AU	210

HALF DOLLARS Continued

1856-O	Darkened, Nice AU	$115
1858	Choice XF	52
1858-O	Choice AU	105
1859	Choice AU	110
1859-O	Nice AU	105
1860-S	Medium S, AU	195
1861	Choice AU	110
1863-S	VF	32
1867-S	Choice XF	48
1869-S	Choice XF+	78
1873-CC	No Arrows, Good	100
1874	With Arrows, Ch. XF	155
1876-S	Toned, Choice AU	100
1878	Choice AU, Toned	110
1879	Choice AU+, Toned	465
1880	MS-60++ Proof, Toned	595
1889	Toned Choice AU	560

DOLLARS

1844	VF	$325
1846-O	XF	480
1846-O	AU	1350
1847	Nice AU	530
1849	VF	295
1849	Choice XF	360
1850-O	Toned Choice AU	1445
1871	XF	230
1872-S	VF	510
1872-S	XF-40	560
1873	VF+	280

TRADE DOLLARS

1873	VF	$125
1873-CC	Choice AU, Lite Toning	575
1874	VF	140
1874-S	AU	225
1875-S	AU	235
1876-S	Choice AU, Slider	255
1877	Dark AU	235
1877-S	Choice XF	135
1877-S	AU	235
1878-S	XF	120
1878-S	Super Slider AU	250
1878-S	MS-60	425

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ANOTHER 1873 NO ARROWS OPEN 3 HALF DISCOVERED

by

Harry E. Smith

I had the fortunate opportunity to recently purchase an 1873 No Arrows Open 3 Half Dollar from a private collector in the pacific northwest. This collector found it unattributed in a group of Seated half dollars. The coin is a strong good with full rims and it has a natural gray color.

On the obverse, Miss Liberty's gown lines are mostly complete with the crease between the legs plain. The characteristic die lump on the leg is very weak but evident under close inspection. About two thirds of the outline of the shield is clear with the ribbon almost fully distinct but flat. There is a small rim bump at 5 o'clock that slightly disturbs the gray color and a few old scratches in the fields.

The reverse is defect-free with half the feather detail on the eagle's left wing evident. The shield is complete except for an area of weakness on the right side of the horizontal stripes. Some of the upper detail of the right wing feathers still shows. The ribbon is evenly worn with most of the motto readable although weak.

The coin was shown to Walter Breen at the California State Numismatic Assn. show in San Francisco in April. His only comment was "Congratulations".

Keep your eyes open. You never know when lightning will strike again!

THE 1837 NO STARS HALF DIME

by

John W. McCloskey

Half dimes of the Liberty Seated type were first struck at the Philadelphia mint in 1837. Thirteen stars were added to the obverse design in 1838 but for the first year of the new Gobrecht obverse, there were no stars in the field surrounding the Seated figure. The listed mintage for this date is given at 1.4 million pieces and examples of the no stars type are readily available in average circulated condition. But in the higher grades this distinctive date is in demand by type set collectors and I believe that the open fields make half dimes of this year particularly attractive in mint state.

Valentine lists six different varieties of the 1837 Seated half dime in his book on die varieties in the half dime series but there are really only two distinctive varieties to be found. Pieces of this year come in Large Date and Small Date varieties that can be easily recognized by the shape of the digits in the date. It has been speculated that the Large Date pieces were struck first because the shape of the digits in their dates is the same as that seen on the Bust half dimes minted earlier this same year.

1837 No Stars Half Dime with Triple Date

Large Date 1837 No Stars Half Dime
Triple Date, Proof

Small Date 1837 No Stars Half Dime, V-6A Variety

Large Date - This variety can be recognized by the shape of the digits 18 in the date. The digit 1 has a long upper serif that slopes sharply upward to a peak atop the right side of the upright of the digit. The digit 8 has a script style with a narrow band running upward through the middle of the 8 and then bending around into a wide band that crosses over the narrow band in the center of the digit. One die of the Large Date variety is known to have a triple cut date. The digits in the date on this die are doubled at the bottom along the base of each digit. Furthermore there are remains of two previously cut 8s below the date. There is an arc of a previous 8 under the left base of the 8 and another arc of an earlier 8 still lower and a little to the right of the 8 in the date. A close up picture of the date of this variety was sent in by Bill Fivaz and is presented with this article. This triple cut date variety is known in proof condition and in this grade the mirror like surfaces make for a spectacular coin that is one of the most beautiful half dimes ever struck by the United States mint. This variety was known to Valentine as the 1837 V-1 variety.

Small Date - the digits 18 in the date also identify this variety for the interested collector. The 1 in the date of this variety has a short upper serif that runs straight across the top of the digit. The digit 8 appears as two circles sitting on top of each other with a very narrow band between the two loops of the digit. The picture of the Small Date variety presented with this article is of the V-6A variety. This die is characterized by the bad flaw to the right of the arm holding the pole that continues downward from the knee half way to the foot. At this stage the die crack that runs from the heel of the right foot to the edge is clearly visible.

The No Stars design was used for only one year at the Philadelphia mint facility for half dimes but pieces were struck in New Orleans the next year to create the 1838-O No Stars rarity. Yet in spite of the short duration of the no stars design, pieces of this type have always played an important role in illustrating the type coinage of the 19th century.

Carefully Graded Seated Coins from John Griffin

DIMES

1838	Large Stars, AU, very sharp	$115
1838-O	No Stars. F-15 original. Usual mushy strike keeps it from VF	85
1843-O	Fine-12	79
1863-S	VF original	57
1865	Fine-12. High date	315
1873	No Arrows, Open 3. XF-AU	110
1876-CC	Doubled Die. VG+	39
1880	F15/VG10, shallow staple scratch above knot on reverse	125
1880	XF, above average circulation marks in field	175

QUARTERS

1844	Nice XF, three reverse marks	$ 47
1852-O	VF, cleaned, retoned medium gray. Some obverse verdigris in deeper folds	250
1858-S	VF+, nice	145
1866	F-12, light obv. field scratch	260
1868-S	F-12, nice	85
1882	VF original. Below average strike	165
1884	VF+	235
1885	VG+/G	125

HALF DOLLARS

1880	VG10/F12, well toned	$210

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1844	An attractive and evenly toned XF specimen that possesses really exceptional problem free surfaces. Full hair details	$ 42
1851	Mostly brilliant with just a touch of rose toning. XF-AU, well struck, and with completely hairline free fields. Attractive	41
1857-O	Sharply struck with eye appealing toning in shades of rose-gray deepening at the rims. A totally original, lusterous. Choice AU	89
1866-S	XF-AU and choice for the grade. Completely problem free with natural light gray toning and a full strike	122
1868	At least Proof-63, and a 'first strike' example with beautiful frosty devices against brilliant proof fields. An untampered with piece that has not been numismaticly abused in any way	585
1872-S	Mintmark in wreath. A choice AU-55 example that possesses a needle sharp strike and pleasing light irridescent toning	58

Dimes

1841	A solid XF coin with exceptionally smooth fields for the grade and an even light gray toning on both sides	$ 38
1847	From an old time collection, this strickly XF piece is the most beautifully toned circulated Seated dime I have yet owned. The rims are a golden-green color while the centers are a vibrant blue. Surfaces are clean and totally original	122
1848	A choice XF-45 example with problem free surfaces, crisp strike and thoroughly attractive toning in shades of golden-tan	78
1852	Captivatingly toned in multi-hue shades of gold, redish-tan, and on the reverse, a light blue; this XF coin is exceptional	42
1852-O	The surfaces are choice, the strike complete, the toning a very even natural gray, and the grade XF. Difficult date to find	165
1858-S	Sharply struck and lusterous under the gold and irridescent toning, this coin is a solid, eye appealing AU - one that will never need upgrading	625
1861	Beautifully toned and with smooth surfaces, this XF-AU is thoroughly appealing and with plenty of luster left	59
1861-S	A totally natural example of this difficult date that exhibits a crisp strike, original surfaces, and pleasing light toning	195
1866-S	An exceptional XF-AU with immaculately clean surfaces under the natural light gray toning. Has many attributes of a full AU coin	210
1878	A quite lusterous, lightly and evenly toned, sharply struck, XF-AU example. Inexpensive and choice for type	33
1887	With full cartwheel luster under a touch of gold toning this strictly AU example has choice surfaces for its grade. Strike is sharp	47

All coins are graded by a strict adherence to ANA standards and come with a two week return privilege. These offerings represent my best efforts to present original, untampered with pieces that are as problem free for the grade as possible.

I am always interested in obtaining Seated material - the common, the scarce, and the rare - in like condition. Please let me make an offer.

Bob Everett **LSCC #440**

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HALF DIMES

1851	XF-45	$ 45
1853	Arrows, XF-40	40
1861	F12	8
1868-S	VG-8	12
1871	XF40	25

DIMES

1840	No Drapery, G/VG	$ 6
1845	1845/1845 Double Date, EF-45	225
1856	Large Date, XF-40	35
1873	Arrows, VF-20	35
1874	Arrows, VF-20	35

QUARTERS

1848	VF-20+ Scarce	$100
1854	Arrows, VF-20	25
1858	VF-20	20
1862	VF-20	20
1877	VF-20	20
1877-S	"S" over Horizontal "S". F-12	85

HALF DOLLARS

1839	No Drapery, VG-8	$ 45
1840	Reverse of 1838, XF-40	375
1840	AU-50	175
1842	Large Date, Triple Date, XF-40	200

HALF DOLLARS Continued

1842-0	Large Date, VF-20	$ 50
1843-0	VF-30	45
1844	44/44 Recut Date, XF-40	85
1846-0	6/6 Variety, G/VG	25
1847	VF-30	45
1853-0	A&R, recut stars, VF-20	85
1854-0	Arrows, VG-8	22
1855	Arrows, 1855/1854 Variety, VF-30	200
1856-0	1856/1856 Var., XF-40	95
1856-0	6/6 Variety, G/VG	25
1857-S	Large "S", XF-45	400
1858-0	1858/18/1/8 Variety, VF-30	75
1858-S	Large "S", XF-40	185
1858-S	Medium "S", VF-30	150
1859	VF-20	45
1859-0	Embedded "9", VF-30	55
1861	VF-30	40
1864-S	Large "S", VG-8	22
1865	Weak "E", VF-20	55
1870	VG/F	28
1870	F-12	35
1871-S	Small "S", F-12	28
1873	Small Arrows, VG-8	30
1874-S	Arrows, VF-30	145
1875	XF-40	55
1878-CC	AG3/4, Rare	175
1881	XF-40	350

Terms of Sale

1. Thirty (30) day return privilege.
2. ANA grading system employed.
3. Thank you.

Terry A. Kaye
30 East Central Parkway • Suite 825
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 • (513) 381-0216
LSCC #742

SOME UNLISTED VARIETIES IN THE SEATED DIME SERIES

by

Terry Searcy

I have continued to have good fortune in finding unlisted varieties in the Seated dime series. I have also found some later die state specimens of varieties listed in the Ahwash book on Liberty Seated dime varieties. I would like to describe the key features of these coins to LSCC members. My coins are as follows:

1840-O Large O, No Drapery. A-1. This is a much later die state of the A-1 variety than that described in the Ahwash Encyclopedia. This piece has a die crack that runs across the top of the letters UNIT and then runs to the rim over the T. The crack extends across the tops of the letters ED and again runs to the rim to the right of the D. Cracks run from the right edge of the first S in STATES to the rim, from the right edge and the left edge of the first T in STATES to the rim and from the A to the rim. A crack also runs from the letters TE to the rim. Another crack runs from the R into the wreath. Cracks also run from the tip of both stems to the rims.

1852 Very High Date. All digits in the date touch the base of the rock except the 2. Stars 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6 have chips in the field just beyond an outside star point. On the reverse a crack runs from the rim through the denticles and to the left edge of the U. Another crack runs from the left ribbon end to the rim.

1857 The reverse of this piece has a heavy die crack that runs from the rim to the top of the first A in AMERICA and then across the top of the letters AMERIC and back to the rim to the right of the C. A small cud has developed to the right of the first A in AMERICA.

1857 Dime with Crack through AMERICA

1875 Obverse has shield position SP-8.5. Broken O in OF and broken S in STATES. Reverse die crack connects the inside bottom edges of the ribbon below the bow and then runs from the right bottom tip of the ribbon to the oak leaves. Small breaks also continue around parts of the wreath on the left.

1886 Obverse has shield position SP-8. Many light die cracks run along the letters in AMERICA and then on to the rim. Another crack runs from the date to the base of the rock and then to the second A in AMERICA. Another crack runs from the rim to the base of the rock beside the 1 in the date. The reverse has a die crack starting at the left ribbon tip that runs clockwise around the wreath to the open ear of corn.

1890 Obverse has sheild position SP-6.5. The date is low, the 9 closed. There are many heavy die cracks that run through the reverse die. A crack runs from the rim below the right ribbon, through the field below the bow and through the left ribbon and into the wreath. Another crack runs from the right ribbon end into the leaves and then on the rim at 3 o'clock. Another crack runs from the rim at 8 o'clock and up into the wreath toward 9 o'clock. A final crack runs from the wreath at 12 o'clock down through the ear of corn and to the rim at 2 o'clock.

1890-S Obverse has shield position SP-7. The 9 in the date is closed. On the reverse the medium S mintmark is not centered but instead is high and very far to the left, almost touching the left ribbon.

1891-S Obverse has shield position SP-7.5 with no die cracks. The reverse has a crack that runs through the leaves in the wreath at 5 o'clock.

The pictures of the two dimes in this article were taken by Marilyn Tiernan at Coin World.

1890 Dime with Crack through Left Ribbon

W. E. Seton

4640 Discovery Road • Port Townsend, Washington 98368

Telephone (206) 385-3636 or 385-2159

Member LSCC #754

QUARTERS

1853-O	VG A&R	$12.00
1854	VF+ W/A	24.00
1857-O	Good	4.50
1876	VF	19.00
1877-CC	Good	5.25
1878	Good	4.75

HALVES

1853-O	G A&R	$12.00
1858	VF/XF	30.00
1870-S	Good	11.00
1874-S	Good	20.00
1876-CC	AG	5.00

DOLLARS

1841	XF	$ 275.00
1845	F	145.00
1846	AU-50	375.00
1846-O	VF-30	250.00
1847	AU Sm. dig below date	250.00
1848	AU	625.00
1848	CH AU	950.00
1854	VF-35/XF-40	1450.00
1857	AU	625.00
1857	MS-60	1125.00
1859-S	XF	645.00
1860	CH AU	950.00
1863	XF-45	525.00

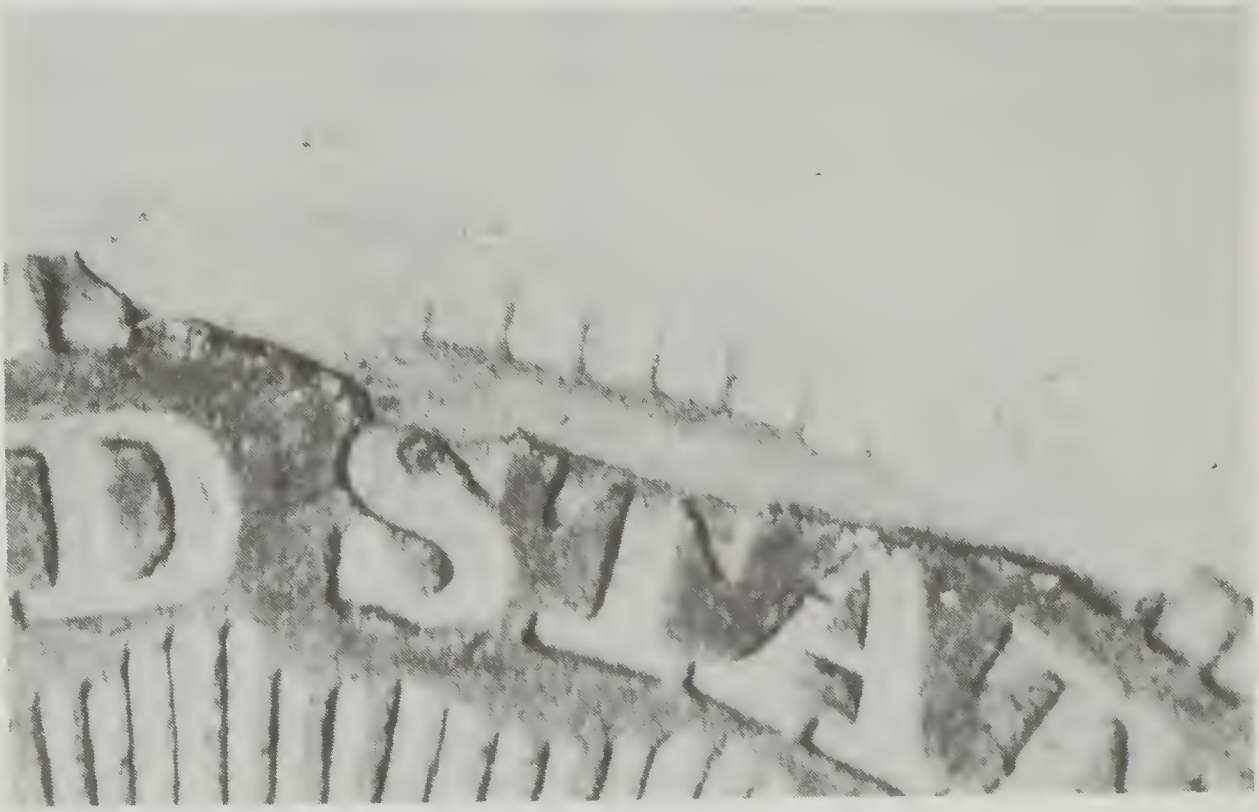
WANTED: Seated Dollars grading MS-55 or better dating
1841-1843-1845-1847-1866-1870-1871-1873
Grading AU-50 or better 1872-CC-1872-S-1873-CC

1. 15 day return privilege.
2. Coins removed from holders are considered sold.
3. Postal money orders or bank checks are preferred.
   Personal checks must clear.
4. Grading by ANA standards.

CUDS SEEN ON 1853 ARROWS & RAYS QUARTERS

Shown below are pictures of reverse cuds seen on two different 1853 Arrows and Rays quarters. Both cuds show breakage from the rim into the lettering and are typical of cuds for this period. But cuds are not often seen on the larger denominations of the Liberty Seated series, most such cuds appear on the half dimes and dimes of our 19th century silver coinage. It is interesting to note that both of these pieces were made during a time of high production with a mintage of over 15 million pieces being reported for this date.

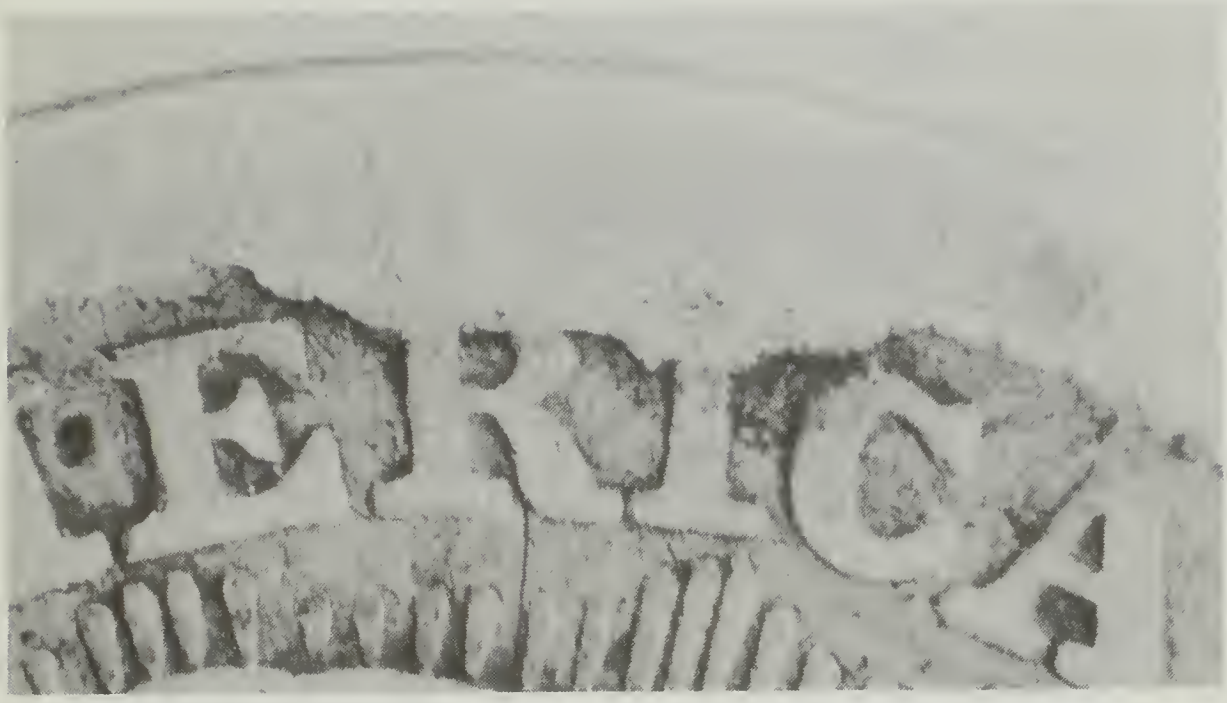
The first picture shows the cud running from the rim over the D in UNITED and then extending down through the top of the letters ST and then back to the rim again over the second T in STATES. Overall this coin grades VF with no other visible breaks on either the obverse or the reverse. This defect would be an example of a retained cud with the denticles still visible through the center area of the cud.



The second picture shows a cud running from the rim over the E in AMERICA down into the top of the letters RI and then to the rim again over the letter C. Overall this specimen only grades VG but other cracks are still visible on the reverse die. In particular a crack runs from the left wing through the bottom of the letter U, up through the letter N and to the rim over the right side of the N.

Both of these coins were sent in by Larry Briggs and show what can be found if one will take the time to examine even the common date pieces that are available for purchase at shows and auctions. The pictures of the two cuds appearing on the 1853 Arrows and Rays quarters were taken by Marilyn Tiernan at Coin World.

The Editor



LSCC ANNUAL MEETING

by

John W. McCloskey

The 13th Annual Meeting of LSCC will be held in conjunction with the 95th Anniversary Convention of the American Numismatic Association. The convention will be held at the MECCA in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from August 6 through August 10, 1986. The club meeting will be held in Room E-10 at the MECCA on Wednesday, August 6, 1986 at 10:00 a.m. Please try to attend. There will be an announcement of the results of this year's election of Officers, an announcement of the article selected by the members as the best to appear in the Journal during the past year, a short business meeting and an opportunity for members to exchange information on Seated coins.

An agenda for the business meeting has not yet been drawn up but several items have already been prepared for presentation at the meeting. These topics include: 1. a financial report for the current year from the club Secretary-Treasurer; 2. the setting of club dues for the next club year; 3. a report on sales of the Second Collective Volume of the *Gobrecht Journal*; 4. a presentation of the KAMAL M. AHWASH LITERARY AWARD plaque to the individual who submitted the best article to the journal during the past year.

Every attempt will be made to keep the discussion on each agenda item short and to the point so that we can have a brisk, informative and productive session.

John W. McCloskey
President LSCC

A FEW SELECTIONS FROM MRC

HALF DIMES

1854-O MS-60, Not listed in Valentine . . . . . **$ 700**

Very tiny marks on Liberty and obverse rim. Die clash marks. Reverse die break. Slightly dull due to dipping. Gray and russet tones. Obverse denticles weak; elsewhere well defined. From Bowers and Ruddy "Johnson and Meyer" sale, February 1978 (Lot 250)

1866-S MS-63 (ANACS 63/63, October 1985) **$2250**

Die clash marks. Tiny obverse rim mark; few others elsewhere. Good luster. Lustrous gold, gray, and russet tones. Obverse denticles slightly weak in places; reverse denticles very weak. Wheat cluster at 10:00 also weak. From Bowers and Ruddy "Robert Marks" sale, November 1972 (Lot 314)

DIMES

1851-O MS-60 . . . . . **$2500**

Planchet flake between 8th star and Liberty's head. Few tiny marks on Liberty and elsewhere. Dull due to dipping. Gray and silver-white tones. Brown discoloration streak in obverse. Obverse denticles weak in places; elsewhere well defined. From Forman-Taxay and Associates 1974 Philadelphia Metro Coin Convention Auction Sale, December 1974 (Lot 121)

1878-CC MS-60 Ahwash 3 (Type 2, Var. 2) (ANACS 60/63, Oct. 1985) **$1400**

Fine die break encircles wreath; two other breaks in obverse. Tiny rim marks. Fine hairline scratch in obverse from base of cap to Liberty's left leg. Good luster. Lustrous and deep gray, blue, and violet tones. Well defined details.

QUARTERS

1880 Proof-63 (ANACS 63/65, November 1985) **$2500**

Two light hairlines in obverse field. Frosted devices, mirror fields and good luster. Light gray-blue tones. Well defined.

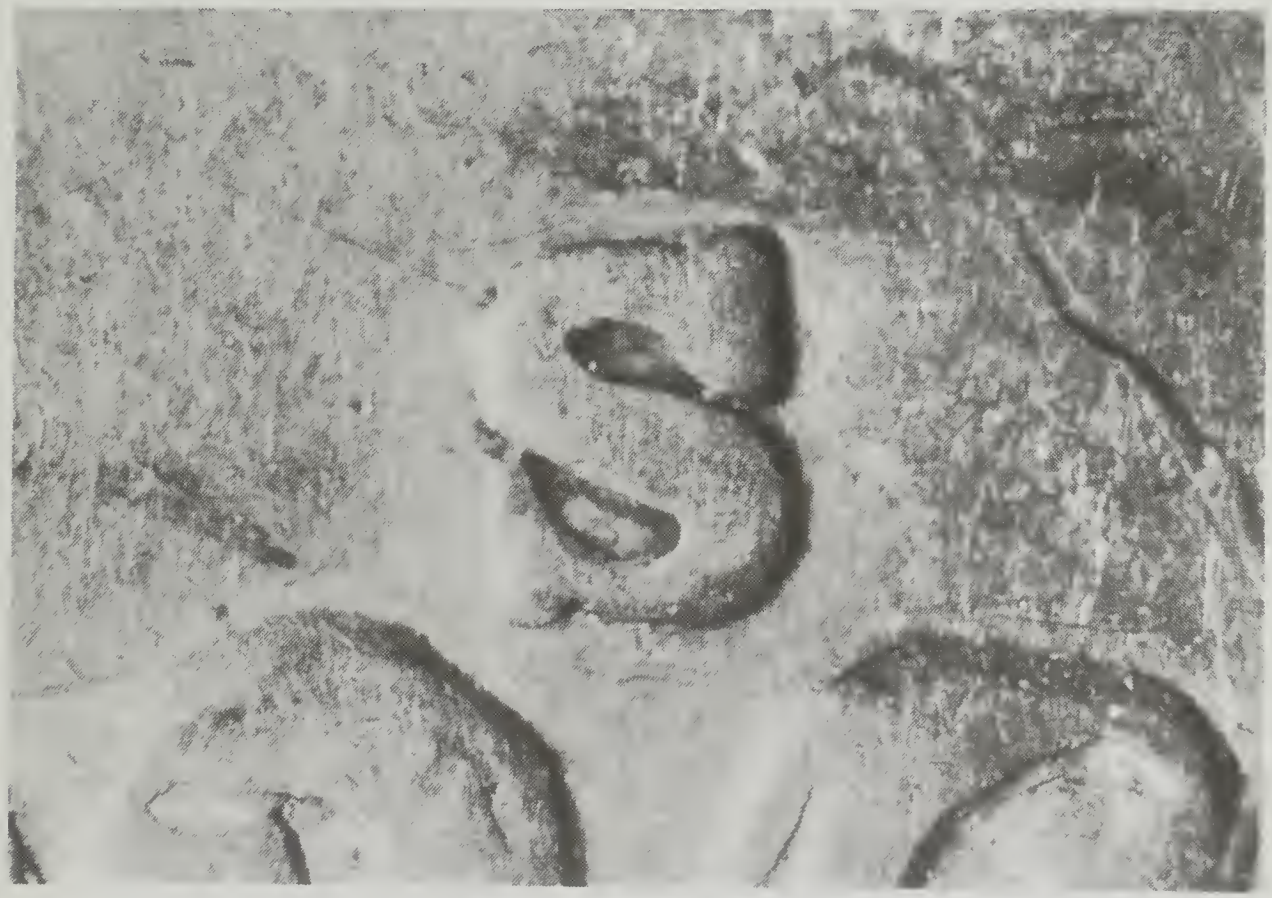
All coins are graded by present ANA standards and carry a thirty-day return privilege from date of invoice. Checks must clear before coins are mailed. California residents must add sales tax for orders under $1000. I need to purchase solid MS-63, or better, Liberty Seated type coins — please think of MRC when selling your prized possessions. If you wish to receive my periodic price list, please advise. Thank you.

Monterey Rare Coins
P.O. Box 1102
Castroville, CA 95012-1102
(408) 633-2999
Member: ANA EAC LSCC

IS THE SAN FRANCISCO MINTMARK ON THE 1860-S DIME UPSIDE DOWN?

Shown below is a picture of the San Francisco mintmark on an 1860-S dime sent in by long time Vice President Monty Johnsen. The coin grades XF-40 and is a nice example of this difficult date in the dime series. Monty has always spent considerable time studying the pieces in his collection and has made an interesting observation on the mintmark of this coin. He notes that the heavy base section of the mintmark appears to be at the top. Is it possible that the S mintmark on this reverse was struck into the working die upside down? Does anyone have information that would verify or disprove this observation? Your thoughts on this matter are invited. We do know that dates have been punched into dies upside down so an inverted mintmark would not be out of the realm of possibility.

The Editor



LSCC MEMBERS MEET AT LONG BEACH SHOW

A group of LSCC members in attendance at the Long Beach Coin and Stamp exposition met for an informal club meeting at the show's snack bar area on Saturday, June 7, 1986. Members in attendance were Chris Lewis, Brian Greer, Harry Smith, Bill Cregan, and Mike Lloyd. Some members brought coins with them for trading or discussion and a lively conversation about the Liberty Seated series was shared by all at the one hour session.

Brian Greer presented a choice AU + 1846-O Tall Date half dollar that he had purchased at the show while Harry Smith passed around his Good plus 1873 No Arrows Open 3 half dollar. Chris Lewis let us examine a nice About Fine 1878-CC half dollar that he had purchased at a common date price at one of the bourse tables. Bill Cregan presented a nice VG plus 1847 double die reverse quarter purchased at the show.

Attending members felt that the availability of nice Seated coinage at the 300 plus dealer show was lacking. Some nice purchases were made and some duplicates sold but members felt that not as much nice material was available as at past shows in Long Beach. Despite this impression there were still some very nice coins in the Liberty Seated series available for sale. In the quarter series there were two attractive VG 1864-S pieces, an uncirculated 1851-O, six 1865-S quarters, three pieces dated 1866-S and an especially nice 1867-S quarter that graded Fine.

The Seated dime supply was extremely thin with the exception being a fully struck 1884-S that graded XF. Amongst the halves, a scarce 1840 half with the reverse of 1838 was purchased by a lucky member as the common small letters type. Other halves observed at the show included a nice VG 1857-S and a choice AU 1882 business strike.

In total, the LSCC members enjoyed their small meeting and their experiences at the Long Beach show. They hope to meet again in greater numbers at the October show in Long Beach.

Bill Cregan
LSCC #533

COLLECTIVE VOLUME NUMBER TWO AVAILABLE

Copies of the *Gobrecht Journal, Collective Volume Number Two* are available for immediate delivery to club members for $22 each. This hard bound volume contains almost 400 pages of material on Liberty Seated coinage and contains the material that appeared in Issues 19-33 of the journal. Make checks payable to the Liberty Seated Collectors Club and send to John McCloskey, President LSCC, 5718 King Arthur Drive, Kettering, Ohio 45429.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

NAME _____

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I'M A COLLECTOR☐ DEALER☐ COLLECTOR/DEALER☐

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SEND MY NAME AND ADDRESS TO OTHER CLUB MEMBERS.

I COLLECT BY DATE SEATED HALF DIMES☐ DIMES☐
QUARTERS☐ HALF DOLLARS☐ DOLLARS☐ ALL SEATED☐

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

Membership Fee - 11.00 for first year dues and initiation fee. Fill in the above and mail with $11.00 to:

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

We ask that you notify us as soon as possible when you move or change your mailing address. It seems that we always have one or two Journals returned to us for improper address when a member has moved to a new location. In such cases we must wait for the member to contact us and provide us with the new address. To avoid unnecessary delays in receiving the Journal and to assist us in keeping our mailing list current, we ask that you inform us as soon as possible of any change of address.

Reverse of Unique 1870-S Half Dime

Your comments on any of the articles, ads or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

John McCloskey
Editor, Gobrecht Journal
5718 King Arthur Drive
Kettering, Ohio 45429